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N I N E T Y - S I X T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 912

S. P. 313

In Senate, February 18, 1953.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Haskell of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-THREE

**RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Liberalize
Limitation of Municipal Indebtedness.**

Constitutional amendment. Resolved: Two-thirds of each branch of the legislature concurring, that the following amendment to the constitution of this state be proposed:

Constitution, Art. IX, Section 15, repealed and replaced. Section 15 of article IX of the constitution, as amended, is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

'Section 15. No city or town shall hereafter create any debt or liability, which singly, or in the aggregate with previous debts or liabilities, shall exceed seven and one-half per cent of the last regular valuation of said city or town; provided, however, that the adoption of this article shall not be construed as applying to any fund received in trust by said city or town, nor to any loan for the purpose of renewing existing loans or for war, or to temporary loans to be paid out of money raised by taxation, during the year in which they are made.'

Form of question and date when amendment shall be voted upon. Resolved: That the aldermen of cities, the selectmen of towns and the asses-

sors of the several plantations of this state are hereby empowered and directed to notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet in the manner prescribed by law for calling and holding biennial meetings of said inhabitants for the election of senators and representatives at the next general or special state-wide election, to give in their votes upon the amendment proposed in the foregoing resolution and the question shall be:

"Shall the constitution be amended as proposed by a resolution of the legislature to increase from 5% to 7½% the limitation of municipal indebtedness?"

And the inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations shall vote by ballot on said question, those in favor of the amendment voting "Yes" upon their ballots and those opposed to the amendment voting "No" upon their ballots, and the ballots shall be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the office of the secretary of state in the same manner as votes for governor and members of the legislature, and the governor and council shall count the same, and if it shall appear that a majority of the inhabitants voting on the question are in favor of the amendment, the governor shall forthwith make known the fact by his proclamation, and the amendment shall thereupon, as of the date of said proclamation, become a part of the constitution.

Secretary of state shall prepare ballots. Resolved: That the secretary of state shall prepare and furnish to the several cities, towns and plantations ballots and blank returns in conformity with the foregoing resolve, accompanied by a copy thereof.